GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:972
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
LATUR OSMANABAD EARTHQUAKES
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Latur-Osmanabad earthquakes the Maharashtra Government appointed a Committee named Devaskar Committee and which has recently submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether the Maharashtra Government has identified 13 districts of the State as earthquake prone;

(c) if so, whether any expertise guidance has been provided by the Union Government to the State Government for tackling this situation in the State; and

(d) the steps, taken so far by the Union Government in consultation with the State Government to tackle the situation in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d): The State Government had requested the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), New Delhi to revise the seismic zoning map of India. The BIS has initiated the process of publishing a revised seismic zoning map of India including Maharashtra state.

Subsequent to the Latur earthquake, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) which is the nodal agency for operating the national seismological network has been in regular contact with the Maharashtra Government for the upgradation of the seismological observational network in Maharashtra. One permanent seismological observatory was set up in Latur by IMD after the Latur earthquake of 30th September,1993. The observatory was subsequently upgraded with state-of-the-art digital equipment. Under a World Bank assisted project, five more observatories under national network in Maharashtra (Mumbai, Pune, Karad, Akola and Nagpur) have also been upgraded with state of the art equipment. More than 50 seismological observatories are currently in operation in Maharashtra by various organisations like Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute (MERI), National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).IMD works in close liaison with MERI and provides necessary technical/training support for seismic observatories/survey in the state of Maharashtra. Some observatories maintained in the state are also being proposed for integration in the national network of IMD. In addition, multi-lingual posters on various aspects of earthquakes were also published and distributed to Maharashtra and other states for public awareness.